[For information on the stone monuments of the Ghost Hill tribes see site categories III and 10a, specifically in regard to sources in Goddard-Kusten and Ob Goddard-Kusten.]

18. Cadelle—Aventure G-3 (ca. 1972) 1975 A.D.?
Khasi A.D.?

shows were very much as we find them at the present day among the Nagas and Kukis, beyond and bordering our present [72]
extreme limits, viz. that of common fruit. They are now the [71]
poorest most peaceful, and unarmed of all the hill people on the eastern frontier.

In my former paper I did not allude to the spires in these hills, which I am inclined to think are works of greater age than the stone structures. The custom is one that scarcely has long since been given up, for I could substitute any satisfactory account of them. They are only to be seen on the northern side of the Khasi plateau, and Mr. Hodgson in his account of his trips to the Kubbing Pass, did not fail to notice them. About Mairang and towards Nongstoin they are very numerous, and always occur on commanding situations. On the path leading down the gorge spur to the stone monument previously described, near Jungkyrit, is a very fine large example of a spire, about eight feet high. They are usually plain hexagonal monoliths of earth; but this one is faced all round at the base with slabs of stone about four feet high; they are frequently not higher than six feet. A distant view is shown in Plate 16.

Besides in these and many of the earth that forms them, having been excavated close by, in most instances, have been carried in some short distance, to avoid carrying inferior soil for structure. I should much like to have dug into one of these cones, but was afraid to hurt the feelings of the people by doing so. They are very probably cenotaphs of an earlier form to those now made of stone, and this point it might be interesting to clear up.

Beyond the Khasi area we pass over to be found, at least I had never come across any until visiting Asám, Manipur last winter (1874-75), where, at the head of the Imphal river, on the direct road from Sumjoreng, are four fine cones, all faced with large boulders. They are old, and the Nagas now living in the village near said they had been made by another clan of Nagas, who long ago had gone further south, and the site of whose village had been lately re-occupied by Kukis.

Mr. C. B. Clarke, in a paper read lately before your Institute, refers to the different forms of the cromlech in the Khasi Hills; but he has not quite exhausted the subject, as you'll further from I did, although with regard to the disposal of the pieces of the dead he gives some further interesting particulars.

As I think that drawings are of very great interest, and better exhibit the many different forms of love dormitory or cloister that have been adopted at different periods by tribes inhabiting localities very far apart, and often quite unconnected ethnically,

16. Gadebridge-Bushton Coll. (1872) 1875.A.67
Kimmeridge A.67

I give a sketch of a form of masonry meeting attention, and one hitherto noticed (Plate II.). Several of this form may be seen on a low spur near the Manor of Dullin or Shilling. The masonry is above ground, and stands on a slightly raised platform. It consists of five thick stones about three feet high, set on edge, and capped with a heavy superstone; and, so far, it resembles the usual form, a figure of which is given in my first paper.* The approach to all these dysmelissa is from the eastward by several low steps, and the whole structure is enclosed on three sides by large flat slabs (in the rough) standing on end—the largest being placed round the masonry itself, encompassing it by three to four feet, and the remainder, three diminishing in size, stand on either side of the steps. There are about six such monuments along the ridge of the spur, and I have seen no others similar elsewhere. They have been broken into, and the front stone removed, very probably by many followers from our neighbouring town, which is close by. There is thus a double probability of their ultimate destruction altogether, should the system be extended in that direction.

Explanation of Plates II. and III.

Plate II.—View of megalithic monuments at Dingelbri, near Shilling, Kissi Hills. From a photograph taken by Sir W. Brisset.

Plate III.—View of rain stone masonry and approach, at Shilling, Kissi Hills, with cairn in the distance: by the author.

Discussion.

The President said that the papers of Lieut.-in Company on the Missions of Borneo contained a great deal of extremely interesting information, especially in relation to their religious customs; the author, however, attempted to connect the Bilanos with the inhabitants of Timor, through the similarity of their religious beliefs. He (the President) did not venture to express any opinion on this point, not having any grounds for forming one. He thought, however, that, as a general rule, evidence of identity of race, derived from the comparison of the religions of savages, must be received with caution, especially in the absence of any information as to physical resemblance. The attention that is directed to religion arises from the interest that is taken in the subject, rather than from the value of the evidence it affords of connection with other peoples. There must always be a great liability to error in the accounts of the religious customs of savages. Inquiries into the peculiarities of the arts of different peoples, about which there could be no mistake, were, he thought,

* Read May 1st, 1875.

10: Godwin-Austen C-3 (ca. 1872) 1873 ASI
Sheet ASI

of more scientific value, and the conclusions given by the author in this paper would, no doubt, be found of great use to comparative physiologists. It is hoped that the Institute would be favoured with some further information as to the mode of Burgess from Lieut.-in Cavanagh.

With regard to the paper by Major Godwin-Austen, he (the President) would say his communications were always welcome to the Institute. He wished that a more detailed account had been given of the circumstances referred to. There appears to have been a great many building period in the life of most races when neighbouring tribes were constantly at war, and each had to strengthen its case of attack. Such cases are conspicuous amongst the occupation of nearly all parts of the world, and a comparison of the different systems of defence adopted, when viewed by the knowledge of the art of communication which we possess, affords valuable evidences of primitive connections. In the early British camps of this country he had never met any evidence of the use of flanking defence except at the entrance, but the description given by Major Austen of this earthwork appeared to indicate that something of the kind was known to these people.

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